

Claims

1. A method for producing character input in an apparatus having a keypad (100, 300), **characterised** in that it comprises stages wherein
- information is produced (200) concerning which set of the possible characters entered as push-button commands is in use and
 - each key in the keypad is associated with a certain subset of characters belonging to the selected set of characters.
2. The method of claim 1, **characterised** in that in response to n successive presses of a key (203a-203f, 204a-204f) a character input is produced (205a-205f, 206a-206f) the ordinal number of which in the list of characters associated with the key in question corresponds to n.
3. The method of claim 2, **characterised** in that a character input is produced the ordinal number of which in the list of characters associated with the key in question is $[(n-1) \bmod m] + 1$, where m is the number of characters associated with the key in question.
4. The method of claim 2, **characterised** in that a character input is produced which consists of $(n-1) \div m$ instances of the last character in the list of characters associated with the key in question and, in addition, the character the ordinal number of which in the list of characters associated with the key in question is $[(n-1) \bmod m] + 1$.
5. The method of claim 1, **characterised** in that said information indicating which set of the possible characters entered as push-button commands is in use, is the same as information about the operating language of the apparatus, whereby the characters that belong to the alphabet of the operating language of the apparatus are used.
6. The method of claim 5, **characterised** in that it comprises stages for selecting an operating language, where
- the available languages are presented to the user in the form of a menu, and
 - in response to an activation command issued by the user the language to which the activation command is directed is set as the operating language.

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7. The method of claim 1, **characterised** in that the subsets of characters of the selected character set that are associated with the individual keys are arranged into lists in which the characters are in alphabetical order.

5 8. The method of claim 1, **characterised** in that the subsets of characters of the selected character set that are associated with the individual keys are arranged into lists in which the characters are in the order determined by the statistical frequency of use, the most frequently used character first.

10 9. The method of claim 1, **characterised** in that in response to a press of a key the characters associated with that key and the cursor are displayed, in response to presses of arrow keys indicating the direction of movement of the cursor said cursor is moved on the display, and in response to a press of an acceptance key a character input is produced consisting of the character at which the cursor is located on the
15 display at the moment when the acceptance key is pressed.

20 10. An apparatus equipped with a keypad (300) and including an electronic circuit (301) for converting presses of keys into character inputs, **characterised** in that it comprises in connection with the electronic circuit a memory element (302) which includes a certain part (302a) for storing information indicating which set of the possible characters entered as push-button commands is in use as well as character set tables (302b-n) for selectively associating certain characters with each key on the basis of the information in said part (302a).

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